



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.51 Thursday, December 19, 2013 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren FREE

Murder/suicide pact fails in VBT, 1 dead

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Police found a wife dead and her husband alive at about 4 a.m. Tuesday in what police believe to be a murder/suicide pact that failed.

Police Lt. Kenneth Floro said a concerned family friend called police to report the suspect was suicidal in words he was saying and texting. Police went to the home to check it out.

When the man answered the door in the 6300 block of Greenwood Court, he was distraught, had some blood on him, and was wearing clothes that were inappropriate. Police secured the man and then found his wife deceased.

Lt. Floro said murder/suicide seemed to be the plan, but the suicide never happened.

(continued on page 14)

Christmas Decorating Contest winners announced in Belleville

The winners of this year's Christmas Decorating Contest were announced by the City of Belleville as:

Harbour Pointe: Eric and Trully Luke, 234 Harbour Pointe Drive;

Victoria Commons: Albert Williams, 210 Aberdeen Court;

Mobile Home Parks: Stephen Massa, 111 Carmell;

Balance of Belleville: John and Lisa Wysocki, 185 E. Huron River Dr.; and

Business: The Lunch Box, Rodney Herald.

Plaques with pictures of their decorated homes/business were prepared for each winner and presented to those present at Monday's City Council meeting.



Sam Kassab, right, and his architect David Jajjoka, left, presented a proposal for upgrades 510-524 Main Street to the Belleville Planning Commission last Thursday. The commission needs more details before it can take any action. Kassab said they would be working at upgrades inside the building during the winter but would like to be working on the outside this spring.

Kassab seeks site plan OK for 510-524 Main

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

"It would be a major turnaround to that part of the community if it works out the way we think," said Belleville Councilman Tom Fielder at the end of Thursday's city planning commission meeting.

He referred to the presentation by Sam

Kassab, who sought site plan approval for upgrades to the building he owns at 510-524 Main Street, at the gateway to the city. He called his project Lake Plaza.

Councilman Fielder, who spoke from the audience, said he especially liked the way Kassab planned entrances to retail establishments from the parking lot that

abuts the building. Kassab plans to pave the site of the former laundromat for additional parking.

"We've talked for years about off-street parking," Fielder said. "... I compliment whoever did it ... It looks great."

After a brief presentation of a rendering of what the building would look like and plans of how the business space would be developed inside, Planning Commission Chairman Steve Jones told Kassab he, for one, needed more details.

Jones said he would like more concrete examples of the colors Kassab plans to use and details on the materials, awnings, greenery, and other items.

"Too many things are not decided," Jones said.

(continued on page 11)



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman

This Space On The Front Page
Postal Regulations Require

More than 200 senior citizens attended Friday's September Days Christmas Party at the Van Buren Township Hall. Among those enjoying the fun were, from left, Senior Director Lynette Jordan, VBT Supervisor Linda Combs and her husband Oakie; and VBT Clerk Leon Wright and his wife Jan.

EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming Christmas Day Holiday, **ALL** ads must be submitted by 4 p.m. Friday, 12/20/13. Classified advertising deadline is Noon Monday, 12/23/13.



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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Guenther plea deal: 2-years probation for not caring for animals

By Diane Madigan
Independent Court Reporter

On Dec. 11 Sumpter Township resident Gary Louis Guenther, 69, took a plea deal in which he admitted he failed to properly care for his animals by not getting them properly dewormed and not providing shelter.

He also agreed to forfeit his 13 equines which included 11 horses and 2 mules, and neuter or spay his four dogs, which he would get back immediately.

According to Sumpter Detective John Toth, on Oct. 5, Sumpter Police Officers Danielle Buccellato and Colleen Carefelle responded to an animal-at-large complaint in the 26000 block of Sherwood Road. On the scene were 13 horses running loose. The officers were able to determine where they belonged. They found one horse in a metal corral containing three feet of feces.

They served a search warrant and police walked the property. They found animal remains of a goat and one horse in a burn pile. Additional skeletal remains of goats and a cat were found alongside the burn pile.

Guenther was arrested for Cruelty to 10 or More Animals, which under Michigan law is a felony and could have landed him in prison for up to four years.

At his Dec. 11 preliminary examination at 34th District Court in Romulus, Guenther appeared with his attorney Brian Stacey before Judge David M. Parrott. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Rajesh Krishna Prasad, cofounder of Wayne County's Animal Protection Unit, represented the People.

Stating that Guenther has documented health issues and is almost 70 years old, Stacey opened the hearing and preliminary exam saying that a proposed plea agreement had been reached.

Judge Parrott read the proposed plea agreement in which Guenther was to plead guilty to Attempted Animal Cruelty, Abandonment of 4 to 10 Animals MCL 750.50(4)c a one-year misdemeanor, be placed on probation for a period of two years, and agree to unannounced daytime checks by Sumpter Township Police.

Also under the plea agreement, Guenther cannot own, possess or care for any livestock or equines. He may own up to four dogs that must be spayed or neutered, and must show proof of annual veterinary care and licensing.

Stacy agreed to immediate sentencing.

Judge Parrott had no objection to the sentencing agreement and was willing to accept the plea on that basis. Guenther agreed to serving two years of probation and paying restitution to Sumpter Police for veterinary expenses of \$492. He also

agreed to forfeit 13 equines seized on Nov. 22 at 26551 Sherwood Road.

Through questioning by his attorney Stacey, Guenther was asked questions to establish a factual basis for a guilty plea, a process referred to by the attorney as *voir dire*.

Before immediate sentencing, Stacey, Guenther spoke in his client's defense, saying people had left some of the animals with him.

"He saves them in a sense, but he was neglectful," Stacey said. "He did the best he could. He loves his animals and these are the worst days of his life. He's happy to hear the animals are doing well. He's confident the two facilities that have taken the animals in are going to do a good job taking care of them."

Stacey said they talked about Guenther's four dogs being returned to him. Detective Toth said the dogs would be released once the dogs have their veterinarian appointments scheduled and they see proof that they've been spayed or neutered at Guenther's expense.

Guenther said, "I want my dogs just the way they are."

Judge Parrott said, that is going to be a condition for probation if he wants the



Guenther

dogs back.

Guenther replied, "I want them back now. There was no reason to take them."

Stacey interrupted, saying that Guenther recently purchased two young beagles. Guenther said he was teaching them how to run out in the woods and catch rabbits.

It was agreed that Guenther could have his dogs back immediately and would have 30 days to spay or neuter his dogs and show proof to the court's probation department.

In his summary statement, Prosecutor Prasad said, "The sentence agreement that this court is approving is one taking this defendant's issues in mind. We recognize that he cares for his animals and also fearful that taking care of them has gotten away from him, especially with regards to the equine. This judgment will hopefully resolve those issues."

Judge Parrott said that in an earlier hearing, the defendant said that he loves his animals.

"I agree with the People that it seems that issue has gotten away from you, sir," Judge Parrott said to Guenther. "But, it has caused quite a bit of pain and suffering on the part of the animals."

"I hope you understand that if you truly do love those animals, this is all for the best."

Judge Parrott said he believes the unannounced daytime checks to be

performed by Sumpter Police is technically probation and didn't think a reporting probation was necessary, given the defendant's health issues.

On the other hand, that could change if the situation warrants.

"I always reserve the right if probation is violated to put somebody in jail," Judge Parrott warned.

He spelled out fines and costs of over \$1,000.

"I'm not going to sentence you to any jail at this point in time," Parrott said. "I do retain the discretion to sentence you to jail if you violate the terms of the probation in the plea agreement. If you do so, your probation could be revoked and you will be sentenced anything up to one year in jail. So please abide by the terms of this agreement."

Several representatives from horse rescues that are currently caring for Guenther's forfeited horses were in the courtroom, including Nancy from Loving Arms Ranch Rescue with an office in Sumpter Township and Jill Fritz from Michigan Horse Welfare Coalition who advised the coalition has a hay bank to help needy people care for their horses. For information, call (517) 321-3683.

Tax-exempt donations to these rescues will help with the care and adoption of the equines.

LDFA sets closed session in January for update on Visteon

By Diane Madigan
Independent Special Writer

At the Dec. 10 regular meeting of the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) member Doug Peters said he would like a closed session as soon as possible to get a report on how long due diligence on the Visteon bond problem is going to take.

Peters also said there is no reason for a closed session until Attorney Kaveh Kashef from Clark Hill law firm can tell the LDFA when he is ready to file with the bankruptcy court to reopen Visteon's bankruptcy.

Peters, an attorney, said he wants to hear Kashef predict Van Buren Township's chances of success.

As in previous meetings, Peters said time is of the essence. He said until there is pending litigation, there will be no mention in Visteon's annual report and the shareholders won't know about the potential jeopardy to Visteon.

VBT Supervisor Linda Combs said a closed session will be scheduled for the regular 2 p.m., Jan. 14 meeting.

At its October meeting the LDFA asked the VBT Board of Trustees to instruct its counsel to file a petition to re-open the

bankruptcy and initiate other legal action by November 30, 2013

Supervisor Combs said she has spoken with attorney Kashef, who is still gathering information.

She said, "Right now the ball is in Visteon's court." She said Kashef has asked Visteon what makes them think the shortfall isn't going to be as great as VBT thinks it is.

Peters asked if LDFA Chairman Michael Dotson had made a presentation to the township board. He had not.

Supervisor Combs said she presented the LDFA's resolution to the board and they said, "Thank you very much."

Peters said, "If Visteon is worried about overfunding, we can provide in the agreement that at the end of the bond term, any overfunding of the bond obligation will revert back to Visteon. We're not trying to make money on the deficit."

Plan B

LDFA member Richard Gavalier asked, "Is there a Plan B should the litigation not get us what we need?"

Combs responded, "At this time we are pinning our hopes on negotiations and

litigation."

She said the funds run out with the first payment in 2018 and there is no backup plan.

Gavalier described the situation as he knows it: The revenues that VBT was looking to offset the bond payments with were supposed to be coming from real and personal taxes collected on that campus.

Gavalier asked if VBT has given any thought to raising revenues by helping the current owners?

"This could be a win/win situation," he said.

At this time Sovereign Partners, the current owners of former Visteon Village, has said the property is 100% leased, but it is not 100% occupied because Visteon has some space it is not using right now.

Peters suggested the VBT assessor look at the leases for hopefully a higher appraisal.

Gavalier asked the LDFA to start thinking about a Plan B before it's too late.

Combs said the original intent was to have more buildings out there. She said the Wayne County EDGE people are looking for development on the township's behalf

(continued on page 9)

OPINIONS

Editorial

People are reaching out to help others

This is the holiday that causes hearts to open and songs to be sung. It's a fun time of year where children are hoping and peeking and wondering.

People are stepping forward to help and amaze others. There is a rising tide of generosity.

We've had two recent reports of local people reaching out to "Pay it Forward," and we realize that what we know is just a small portion of what really is going on.

People of all ages throughout the community are gathering food and funds to feed those less fortunate, gathering coats and socks to keep them warm, and collecting toys to fill the hearts of children. Cops and fire fighters are shopping with children.

The Christmas Party for Van Buren Seniors on Friday was a wonderful affair, for hundreds of seniors, with lots of food, fun, and entertainment. The decorations were gorgeous and the fellowship warm.

In Sumpter, the seniors are having their Christmas Party this week and the Supervisor's Christmas Party for Children is also on this week. Those events every year are warm, fun-filled events. No senior goes without a Christmas dinner and no child goes without a gift. Can't happen in Sumpter. Everyone pitches in.

We are fortunate to live in such a giving community. As we've said before, often people who are at each other's throats on issues throughout the year can work together at Christmas time.

A lot of people need help this year, so it's great so many are reaching out.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Keith Boc, Director of the City of Belleville Department of Public Service, has turned in his notice that he is retiring as of Feb. 28. He has been an employee of the city for 28 years.

Before the city planning commission convened on Thursday, Boc said that Wayne County would be rebuilding East Huron River Drive, between Five Points and Martinsville, starting in the spring. Not just resurfacing, but putting in a new road, he said.

We've all seen those survey crews along that roadway over the last month. We wondered what they were doing.

Boc said for years the county has been telling the city it would repave that roadway if the city chipped in, but the city didn't chip in. Now, it's being done without city funds.

Boc said he recently got a letter from the county announcing the project.

Bev Thom, former mayor of Belleville, and a friend were shopping for groceries at Walmart last Wednesday morning and had a heart-warming experience.

Bev said she was checking out and a man intervened, announcing, "I'm paying for it." He said he was paying for her friend's groceries, too. He whipped out his credit card and the groceries were paid for quickly.

"It was so unexpected," Bev said. "He was so generous, right in the spirit of Christmas."

Bev thanked him, blessed him, and gave him a big hug. He said she should thank his wife, too, so she did. Their son was with them, too, so I'm sure Bev thanked him,



too.

She wanted that family to know that the women shoppers really appreciated what he did.

"We're praying for him and his family," she added. Bev thought this would be a nice Christmas story for our readers.

It's been announced that the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team will be the headliners at the 2014 Thunder Over Michigan Air Show at Willow Run Airport, Aug. 9-10.

At last Thursday's Belleville Planning Commission meeting, Commissioner Becky Hasen reported she had been to the Chamber of Commerce Christmas party at the BYC building and the restrooms are fabulous! She said the special restrooms are no-touch and "really great!"

Many people said they attended the party to get a look at what BYC had done since taking over the former Moose Lodge earlier this year.

Last week I wrote about the beautiful Christmas decorations at Augusta Woods and now I know the rest of the story.

I've been told that resident Dave Makarewicz lost his wife last year just before Christmas and this year he decorated Augusta Woods, providing all the lights and doing all the decorating himself. It was a volunteer effort to brighten the season for

his neighbors.

What a nice story. Thank you, Dave.

I also wrote about "Shop With a Hero" at Meijer last week and noted I didn't have any information on "Shop With a Hero" at Walmart, although they usually have such an event. I've been informed that the Walmart shopping event was set for Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

This is the time when police and fire fighters help selected needy children shop for Christmas using gift cards from the store. Nice event.

Charles Tackett called to say he tried calling VBT Supervisor Linda Combs and her executive assistant Karin LaMothe at 7:30 a.m., when the VBT Hall is supposed to open, and they are never there. He is told they come in at about 8 a.m.

Charles said he figured it out and Combs is "cheating" the township taxpayers out of \$700 worth of her time a month. He said he's called more than ten times and asked for Combs and LaMothe at 7:30, and they weren't in yet. "That, to me, is stealing," Charles said.

He said if 7:30 is too early for them, the township should change it back to an 8 a.m. opening time.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

Jazzercise helps Community Food Closet

To the Editor:

The Food Closet of First United Methodist Church of Belleville provides a great service to our community, providing food staples and other non-perishable food and necessary household items to the hungry in the Belleville area.

"Hunger in our community is a real thing," says Sandy Askew, director of The Food Closet. Many families depend on the service the Food Closet provides. But, their needs are many and their resources are limited.

Jazzercise of Belleville is privileged to be able to contribute in a small way. We recently sponsored Shop, Hop & Drop, a fundraiser for the Food Closet. We were honored to present Sandy and the Food Closet with a substantial check and several hundred dollars worth of non-perishable food items.

The day we were there at the church to present the check, we saw hundreds of bags filled with food ready to be picked up by hungry families. It was overwhelming to see and to realize that so many people in our community were in need.

Please join us in supporting the Food Closet this holiday season. Every little bit helps!

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday,
Joyce Gant

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At Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council, Mayor Kerreen Conley presented a plaque for the Best-Decorated Business to Rodney Herald of The Lunch Box restaurant. The Lunch Box also won the same award in the decorating contest put on by the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce for Winter Fest.

From our Gingerbread House to yours ...

To the Belleville Community:

On behalf of myself and the employees here at the Lunch Box, I'd like to thank everyone who worked endless hours over the past few months in planning and building our holiday theme for this Winter Fest.

Special thanks to Bob Mytych, who brought my vision of turning my business into a beautiful Gingerbread House to life.

Thank you to Scott Burger, Derek Johnson, Alyssa Johnson, Collette and Brian McClinton of Garden Fantasy, for all your hard work.

And, as always, thank you to our customers who support us year-round: It is you that makes this small-town business a success.

From our Gingerbread House to yours,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Rodney Herald
Owner, The Lunch Box

Angels are around in Van Buren Township

To the Editor:

I know that this is a busy news time of the year, but I just had to tell you that I met an angel in Van Buren Township this weekend. I think he was part of the Pay it Forward movement -- that is helping, giving or sharing with someone you do not know.

I was in a local store, which I will not give the name because I do not wish to embarrass this gentleman. He helped me out with a situation and for that I say thank you to him.

Even on a very snowy day, Angels are around!

I thank you, sir, and now I must pay it forward to someone and share a kindness.

This, indeed, is a Merry Christmas and to all, Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,
Marian Caldwell
Van Buren Township

Clarification: Land purchase leaves BACA out of the transaction

Rodney Herald, owner of The Lunch Box restaurant in Belleville, said he wanted to clarify the report published last week in the *Independent* about him purchasing a vacant lot at 337 Main Street.

Our report, based on information from the president of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, said he would be taking over BACA's payments to property owner Russell Minges, in a three-way deal.

But, Herald said Monday that he didn't want a third party involved and he is purchasing the property directly from Minges and has put down a deposit.

He said he has a verbal agreement with Minges to buy the property after it is returned to him by BACA.

"I'm starting fresh and buying it in a whole different deal," he said.

After the paperwork is complete to get the land returned to Minges, Herald said he will proceed with the purchase and expects a January closing date.

Herald said he doesn't want to tell his plans for the property, but at one point he considered a Dunkin' Donuts. He said he is uncertain right now, but nothing will be built for a couple of years.

About two years ago, the BACA board voted unanimously to buy the parcel from Minges on a land contract and since then has been paying just under \$500 a month and about \$3,500 in property taxes per year. A five-year balloon payment was coming up and BACA decided to abandon the property and use its funds, instead, for community events.

Rosemary K. Otzman, editor



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Obituaries



Vivian Odez Harris

VIVIAN ODEZ HARRIS

(May 11, 1923 - December 12, 2013)

Vivian Odez Harris, age 90, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Thursday, December 12, 2013 at her home. She was born May 11, 1923 in Henry County, Tennessee, daughter of Edwin J. and Beulah P. (Nance) Gray.

Mrs. Harris was a long-time active member of Graceway Baptist Church. She worked for Auto-Owner's Insurance for 41 years as an underwriter. She was a member of numerous senior citizen groups, including Sumpter Seniors and September Days Senior Citizens. She also enjoyed the Western Wayne County Quilting Guild, reading, gardening and playing cards and bingo. Most of all, she loved to travel, having visited most of Europe, Australia, Alaska, etc.

She is survived by a brother, Kenneth Gray of Paris, Tennessee; special niece, friend and caregiver, Sheryl Lucas of Ypsilanti, MI; as well as numerous other nieces, nephews and friends.

Mrs. Harris was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Kelly Harris, two sisters Rhoda McDaniel and Bernice Jean Skiffington, and a brother William Gray.

Visitation was 2-8 PM Sunday, December 15, 2013 at David C. Brown Temporary Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI. Funeral services were Monday, December 16, 2013 at 11:00 AM at Graceway Baptist Church, 2201 S. Grove Street, Ypsilanti, MI with visitation from 10-11 AM. Pastor Keith Worrell officiated. Interment will be in Stanford, Kentucky.

Memorial contributions may be made to Graceway Baptist Church and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

CHRISTINE E. BENTLEY

(March 31, 1929 - December 17, 2013)

Christine E. Bentley, 84, died Tuesday at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital following a massive stroke. A gathering will be at Crane's Funeral Home in Romulus from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Cremation rites will be accorded.



Billy Ray Hardrick

BILLY RAY HARDRICK

(April 7, 1943 - December 11, 2013)

Billy Ray Hardrick, 70 of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on December 11, 2013. Billy was born April 7, 1943 in Princeton, Kentucky. He was the son of the late William Hardrick and Dorothy (Dobbins) Taylor.

Bill enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards, and gambling. He was a football coach of the Romulus Flyers for 15 years. Bill also loved spending time with his family.

To cherish his memory he leaves his wife; Serena Hardrick of Romulus; four sons, Michael (Elaine) Hardrick of Garden City, Gary Hardrick of Ammisville Virginia, Matthew (Monica) Hardrick of Romulus, and Todd (Amy) Hardrick of Stockbridge; one daughter; Kristi Schofield of Romulus; one sister; Bonnye (Vic) Skornicka of East Tawas; seventeen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Larry Ladd.

A memorial service was held on Sunday December 15, 2013 at 1 p.m., at the Romulus Progressive Hall, 11580 Ozga Street, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Those who wish, may contribute to the family of Bill Ray Hardrick. Online guests may leave condolences, share a photo, or light a memorial candle by visiting www.cranefuneralhome.net.



Tilda T. "Til" Zdun

TILDA 'TIL' T. ZDUN

(March 2, 1936 - December 13, 2013)

Tilda T. "Til" Zdun, age 77, of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, December 13, 2013 at her home. She was born March 2, 1936 in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, daughter of Jessie and Addie (McAfee) Marchbanks.

Til worked as an attendant at the Belle Coin Laundry for over 15 years. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, plastic canvas, and working outside. She never met a stranger. She was proud of her family and loved doing things with and for her kids and grandson.

Mrs. Zdun is survived by daughter Margaret White of Belleville, son Tony Zdun of Redford, MI, grandson Marc Anthony Zdun, also numerous nieces, nephews and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Stanley Anthony Zdun on February 18, 1983, also nine older siblings.

Visitation was Monday 2-5 PM with a 5:00 PM Funeral Service at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bethany Bible Church and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Now through Saturday, Dec. 28** – The Belleville Area Museum is presenting its Festival of Holiday Trees. The museum is open Tuesdays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

• **Friday, Dec. 20** – Free Friday Movie begins at 7 p.m. at the Friends Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road at Bemis in Ypsilanti. This week: A story about a dog and his friends and a classic showing how Peace & Joy can be brought to our hearts from the unexpected., plus another Christmas movie. Info: (734) 482-5074

• **Saturday, Dec. 21** – Helping Hands Christmas Sale runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 42682 Ecorse Rd., 734-398-5209. Free hot chocolate and Christmas cookies. Deeply discounted items for sale: tools, diapers, winter coats, adult and children's clothing, canned goods, sporting goods, new and gently used toys.

• **Saturday, Dec. 21** – Belleville Area Museum's ornament workshops for children run at noon, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Santa will visit with children from noon to 4 p.m.

• **Saturday, Dec. 21** – Belleville Community Band's Christmas Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Everyone welcome. Free admittance.

• **Sunday, Dec. 22** – Free Country and Bluegrass music from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Van Buren Senior Center. Information: Hugh, 485-7241, or Lynette, 699-8918.

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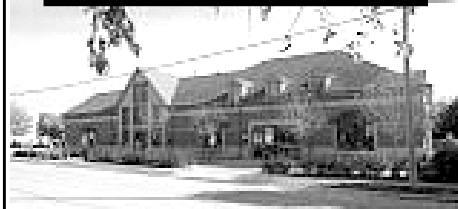
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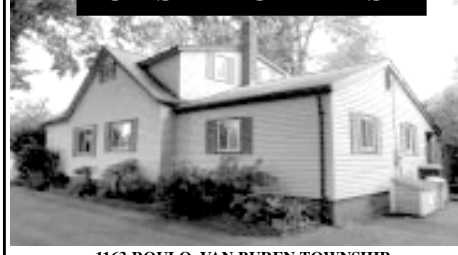
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VBT LDFA

(continued from page 3)

and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation is also on board to assist the township.

Arthur Mullen, VBT Director of Planning and Economic Development, said "There's been some interest but I'm not sure how serious it is and at what level I can even speak about it. I need to circle back with the contact person to see where they are and how the township can help them.

"That facility is a world-class facility," said Chairman Dotson referring to the former Visteon Village. "It's in the backyards of our residents. It's all of our responsibilities to make sure everyone is aware that that facility is there and a great opportunity for any organization that wants to relocate into a wonderful location in a wonderful community. That is an absolute jewel in this community. We do need to look at the other side of the coin."

Peters asked if Sovereign Partners has a broker that is marketing the property. Supervisor Combs said she would check and also check on whether the assessment is based on property or leases.

Peters said he hopes the community doesn't look at Plan B as much as they look at pressuring Visteon to keep its word.

Budgets

The 2013 amended and 2014 proposed budgets were reviewed. In 2013, there is a decrease in interest income from the Visteon bankruptcy settlement. Also in 2013 there is deficit of \$547,121 in revenues.

Due to an anticipated increase in property tax capture, in the 2014 proposed budget, there is *only* a deficit of \$477,496 expected.

The LDFA fund balance, which includes the one-time Visteon bankruptcy settlement, totaled \$7,778,231 in 2010 and is projected to be \$5,767,201 after the 2014 bond payments.

Gavalier, financial controller at Ricardo Inc., headquartered in VBT, asked how the LDFAs fund balance funds are being invested and at what interest rate. Gavalier suggested the township bring someone in to review the account to see if they could get the considerable balance into a higher yield account.

Supervisor Combs said she will check with the township treasurer.

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue

CHINA BLUE



China Blue is definitely no fool! She's a pretty Russian Blue mix that started here very shy but realized that the way to landing a fur-ever home is by showing her loving affectionate side. While residing in our more hectic teenage room, **China Blue** was always up high and shied away from attention but after a switch to our calmer adult room she transformed herself into an attention seeking and affectionate kitty. She no longer hides up high and can usually be found out and about seeking pets and attention from visitors. She's even been known to gently stretch herself up your leg to get a few more pets if you stop before she thinks you're done. She doesn't seem to mind the other cats either but can get sensitive if they try to invade too much on her attention getting time. Her looks are just as nice with her petite frame covered in beautiful silvery grey fur and green eyes that sparkle like drops of crystal filled hope. She does put in a request for a home without young kids or a hectic environment so her shy side isn't tempted to show itself again. **China Blue** is spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. 734-461-9458

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Belleville Wrestling Club hosts 58 teams for Top Hat Tournament Sunday

If you saw heavier-than-normal traffic on Sunday, Dec. 15, it was because the Belleville Wrestling Club hosted the annual Top Hat Tournament at Belleville High School.

This is the first tournament ever hosted by the BWC, now in its fourth year as a club serving the youth of Belleville and surrounding areas.

Fifty-eight teams braved the weather and came from as far away as Davison, East Lansing, Edwardsburg (near Niles), Yale and Kalamazoo, in addition to the local talent from the surrounding communities.

Five hundred and fifty wrestlers -- boys and girls, ranging from 5 to 13 years of age -- packed the high school gym starting at 10 a.m. and by 5:30 p.m. they were all on their way home after a full day of competition.

The BWC entered 38 of its own wrestlers in the tournament: 22 of them taking home medals for placing in the top four of their age group and weight class, five of which took top honors as champions.

All competitors took home with a medal for participation and to show how hard they worked to learn this sport.

The tournament was a great success, due in no small part to the countless number of parents, family members and friends of the BWC who pitched in to ensure the day ran as smoothly as possible.

President Jim Majewski said the BWC would like to thank the Belleville High School Wrestling Tigers who helped set up mats on Saturday evening after they wrestled a full day in Wyandotte.

Several came out on Sunday to help during the event and stayed to help with clean up.

Majewski said thanks also goes to the local businesses -- Meijer, Tim Horton's and Mr. Pizza -- for their generous donations and support for this event, and the BHS staff for allowing BWC to hold the event in a wonderful facility, which drew great compliments from several visitors in attendance.

Coming up, the BWC is planning to host a regional tournament on March 16, which



Jaime Vasquez took 1st place at 130 pounds in the 9-10 year old age group of the Novice Division in Sunday's Top Hat wrestling tournament at BHS.

is the qualifier for the state tournament that takes place in Battle Creek.

BWC is affiliated with the Michigan Youth Wrestling Association and wrestles in Michigan's East Region (one of eight regions statewide).

BWC's motto for the 2013-14 season is "Tearin' it up!" It's mascot is the tiger. The club is on Facebook and its website is: <http://www.eteamz.com/bellevillewrestling>.

Besides President Majewski, the BWC board is made up of Barb Koehler, vice-president; Dawn Majewski, secretary; Kelly Williams, treasurer; and Jeff Koehler, head coach.

Anthony Munoz receives Master of Arts degree

Anthony Muñoz of Belleville received a Master of Arts degree from Ashland University at its Winter Commencement ceremony on Dec. 14. Muñoz majored in American History and Government.



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Kassab

(continued from page 1)

Later Jones said that at a future meeting when Kassab comes back with samples of the stone he wants to use and other items, the commission could approve the site plan.

Commissioner Michael Hawkins noted Kassab said he wanted to work on the inside of the building in the winter and Kassab said that was true.

Keith Boc, director of the city's Department of Public Service, said Kassab doesn't need planning commission approval to begin work inside.

Kassab said when he built in the past, there was always a change in the colors as the project progressed.

"The visual is so important," stressed Commissioner John Juriga, urging Kassab to bring in a sample of the stone he plans to use on the outside of his building.

Jill Bahm of Clearzoning, the city's planning consultant, prepared a summary of findings on his project, with six conditions that he needed to follow.

She suggested the commission discuss with Kassab his use of split face concrete masonry units versus half-high concrete "c" bricks on the west elevation, as well as the treatment of the south elevation (Main Street).

She cited standards in the zoning ordinance applying to buildings in the B-2 district.

Bahm reported Kassab is planning to renovate an existing 14,563-square-foot retail center on Main Street. No additions to the building are taking place. The building has 110 feet of frontage on Main Street, with the western frontage of the building facing the site's parking area.

"It appears that most of the improvements will be to the western elevation, which will greatly enhance the building and entrance to downtown from the west," Bahm wrote, pointing out this was the gateway to the city.

"The stone elements will add architectural interest..." she wrote. "It appears that an awning or canopy will be added along the west elevation."

She suggested the commission discuss with Kassab the opportunity to improve the entire site by expanding and improving the

parking area towards Liberty Street and to consider placing the Phase 2 building on Main Street.

Kassab's plans show a new retail building at the site of the longtime home of the late Bob Doane on Liberty.

But Kassab said Phase 2, which includes redoing the parking lot, may not be done for several years. He explained he was having some financial difficulty with tenants who were going to be in the building, but now have pulled back.

When he was questioned on the parking lot, Kassab said he would just pave where the laundromat had stood and smooth out the rest of the lot which one planning commissioner had compared to a "war zone" because of all the holes.

When Kassab was questioned about whether he was putting a new roof on the building, he said he would put one right over the existing roof. He said the roof was new 10 years ago and it was supposed to be good for 25-30 years.

Architect David Jajjoka said Kassab wants to repair the roof and a new load-bearing wall would be constructed.

Commissioner John Juriga said there have been rumors of mold in the roof and Kassab said that was just a rumor and that he believes many roofs have mold in them. He said there are always leaks in flat roofs that you can never get away from.

When they were discussing what colors would be used, Kassab was asked about the orange paint on the wall that was damaged in the laundromat fire.

When pushed to say who told him that bright color was all right, he said he asked former Councilwoman Kay Atkins and she said it was OK, but he didn't want to get her in trouble by saying that.

After Kassab was directed to come back with samples and more details, Chairman Jones said, "It is a good development. It will enhance the downtown."

The next meeting of the planning commission is 7:30 p.m., Jan. 9.

Birthday

Dec. 20 – Kerreen Conley

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I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela," c/o *Belleville-Area Independent*, 152 Main Street, Suite 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at nettroandco@comcast.net. I'll answer questions in this column.

Question from Ralph in Van Buren Township: My wife and I are wanting to put our house up for sale a few days after Christmas. After the recent heavy snowfall this last weekend, we are concerned that someone looking at the home could trip and hurt themselves. Is it my responsibility and am I libel, even if I keep the drive and walkways clear of snow and ice? Is there anything in writing to protect a seller under these circumstances?

Answer: Ralph, unfortunately we live in Michigan with snow and ice during the winter. It is important that you keep your driveway, walks, porches, decks free of any snow or ice that could cause an accident on your property. In placing your home on the market in the winter months, it does require extra care on the homeowner's behalf to protect any person from injury while visiting your home. When you list the home for sale, you are inviting potential buyers and Realtors to view your home. Most listing contracts have language stating that Seller shall indemnify and hold harmless Broker and agents from any and all liability for any reason as a result of injury to persons, etc.

It is very important any time of the year for a seller/homeowner to keep the inside and outside premises as safe as possible. It is also EXTREMELY NECESSARY to have current insurance on the home that does cover an incident of this nature. Remember that winter buyers most often are the most sincere, "ready-to-purchase" buyers, since they confront the snow, ice, and freezing cold to buy a home.

Happy Winter and New Year! -- Angela

Angela Nettro/Real Estate Broker
(734) 697-6655

Email: nettroandco@comcast.net

Toys for Tots pickup at *Independent* is Friday, four dolls needed for cradles

Toys for Tots has advised the *Independent* that it will be picking up the toy donation boxes on Friday, Dec. 20.

Don Bosman of Van Buren Township, who regularly brings in wooden toys he has hand-crafted, said he is bringing in four, 16" wooden cradles that need four dolls to be complete. Anyone with doll donations is invited to bring them in by Friday.



**Minding
Your Business**
with Bob Mytych

The **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** in Sumpter Township will be holding an adoption event this Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Petco Pet Store on Warren Avenue across from Westland Mall. For information visit their website at www.fmar1.org and call (734) 461-9458.

Perspective Eyecare on Belleville Road is offering a buy 1 complete pair of glasses and get lenses on a second pair of equal or lesser value free with its ad coupon in today's paper. Hurry, offer ends Dec. 31. Call (734) 699-1010 or visit their website at www.perspectiveeyecare.com.

The **Belleville Church of God** on Hull Road is gathering food packages for the needy through their pantry this Christmas. To learn more, call **JoAnne Ciaverella** at (734) 697-1142.

Just in time for last minute holiday gifts are tickets to next year's **Thunder Over Michigan Air Show** Aug. 9-10 at Willow Run Airport. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will be making their first ever appearance here. Tickets in advance are \$25 if bought before June 15 and \$35 at the gate. Visit the show's website at www.yankeearmuseum.org.

Lodge Lanes in Belleville is gearing up for winter leagues, parties and no-tap events. The bowling alley on the south I-94 Service Drive west of Belleville Road will be featuring two New Year's Eve Cosmic Family Parties on Dec. 31, from noon to 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at a cost of \$39.95 per couple. There's also an adult New Year's Eve Party scheduled later in the evening at 8 p.m. for \$50 per couple. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (734) 697-9178. For a list of the winter leagues starting up and no-tap events, see their ad in today's paper and visit www.lodgelanes.com.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Keystone Student Council raises money for Toys for Tots gifts

Keystone Academy's Student Council raised \$550 from its candy gram sales this season and they used the money to purchase toys for the Toys for Tots program.

Michelle McNulty, a 3rd grade teacher, said the students worked very hard selling the candy grams, but had a wonderful time picking out the toys to be given away.

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

**WE BUY
JUNK CARS**
**7 Days A Week For
\$300 & Up!**
Cash Paid!
(734) 787-1444

**WANTED:
JUNK CARS**
**Running or Not. Top \$
Paid. Call For Free
Pickup. Drive In For
Extra Dollars.**
734-282-1700

WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - ROOMMATE to share Apt. Single female over 30. Call Cherie (734) 308-8569 12/19

SERVICES

Take Advantage Of Early Bird Rates!
Call FIRST CLASS LANDSCAPING
(734) 699-4711
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
YEAR ROUND SERVICES
Weekly Mowing, Aeration,
De-Thatching, Seed & Sod,
Tree, Bush & Stump Removal
And Much More!
www.FIRSTCLASSLANDSCAPING.net

A&L SERVICES
**Home Improvement &
Handyman Service**
Painting, Drywall, Carpentry,
Electrical, Plumbing,
Ceramic Tile, Kitchens & Bath.
Serving Belleville Since
1995. Call Aaron Schultz
@ 734-740-0628

SERVICES

**Gerry's
Small
Engine
Repair**
CALL 734-461-0158

JNG Auction Services
881 Sumpter Rd.
Live & Online Auctions
Commercial, Estate & Consignments
**Coming in January, Live & Online
Estate Auctions. Dates TBA.**
Watch for the Q coming soon!
Accepting quality items & new clients
www.JNGauctions.com
734-489-4636

LOCAL HANDYMAN - SOME Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too SMALL. Residential Snow Removal LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed! (734) 282-1700 TFN

LAKEFRONT WINDOW CLEANING Get clean windows for the holidays! Commercial and Residential. Call Jason (734) 740-0857 12/26

MICHAEL OWENS Extraordinary Handyman Service. We take care of any and all of your household needs. We will not refuse any type of work. We also Clean Homes, Dog waste removal. (517) 883-3788 1/02

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

ESTATE/MOVING SALE

LANE SLEEPER Sofa, Living Rm. tables Rainbow vacuum, Lawn equipment, Tools Man's bike, Ladders, Lg. grill, 12 gauge shotgun & Much Much More.
(734) 340-6930 12/26

FOR SALE

HAY FOR SALE
Round Bales Only.
Leave Message.
734-587-2344

6 PC. LEATHER LIVING ROOM SET. Sofa, Loveseat, Chair, 2 Marble End tables, 1 Cocktail table. \$450 obo
(313) 610-6151 12/19

HITACHI TABLE SAW. 3 H.P., 10" blade, Model C10FL. Great shape. \$180
(734) 732-1054 12/19

VEHICLE FOR SALE

C.T.S. AUTO Engines, Transmissions Discount Prices - Guaranteed!
(734) 282-1700 TFN

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE

RAWSONVILLE WOODS
Bankruptcy, Foreclosures and bad credit ok.
Handyman Homes starting at \$1.
Rental homes available
Ask about our specials
734-461-6700

MUST SELL - 2 BR. 1 Bath home in Holiday West Mobile Park. Lg yard, Lg deck, Natural fireplace. \$1,000 obo
(734) 320-5533 12/19

MOVE IN READY. 1977 3 BR., 1 bath home. All appliances included. New hot water heater. All new blinds. \$1,500 obo.
(734) 697-9655 before 8:00 p.m. 1/02

FREE

DOROTHY SKSZEK I-94 Service Dr. You've won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. (734) 697-7400 or www.mainstreetflowersbelleville.com TFN

FREE TO GOOD HOME ONLY.
5 kittens, 3 grey, 2 black.
(734) 637-5791 12/26

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

HOLIDAY SPECIAL!
2 Bed, 1 Bath
For as little as
\$9,995!*

Call Sun Communities
Lakeview Today
888-219-5958

Or apply online
www.freemobilehomes.net
WAC, EHO. Expires 12/31/2013
*some restrictions apply. NMLS #33675

FOR RENT

\$99*
MOVES YOU IN!

ACT FAST! LIMITED TIME ONLY!

Lease from only
\$849* PER MONTH!

- 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath!
- Over 1,450 Sq. Ft.!
- ALL Appliances Including Washer/Dryer & A/C!
- Wonderful Amenities!
- On-Site Customer Service!

SUN HOMES AT
LAKEVIEW

1-888-235-4695

*Conditions apply.
EXPIRES 12/23/13. EHO. WAC.

www.4lakeview.com

WINTER SPECIAL - 2 BR., 1 BATH APARTMENT. Was 599/mo. Now \$549/mo. plus security.
(734) 730-3603 or (734) 796-3033 TFN

LAKEFRONT 1 BR. APT. W/D, Dock, Parklike setting, Great sunsets. No Pets No smoke. \$650/mo. includes heat.
(734) 968-8897 12/26

FOR RENT

SHORT TERM LEASE AVAILABLE. Furnished 1 BR., 1 bath Apartment. \$650/mo. Ask about utilities & Pets.
(734) 730-3603 12/26

2 BR. APT. \$700/mo. or \$650/mo. w/\$650 security. Heat included. No lease or Credit check. Available Immediately. (734) 844-8241 12/26

TOYS FOR TOTS



The Belleville Independent is now a drop off location for the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. Bring in your new, unwrapped toy to our office at: 152 Main St., Suite 9, Belleville, MI We are located in the Professional Building (the old movie theater building) across from Mr. Goofy's LAST DAY TO DONATE IS DEC. 20!

Notice to Advertisers:

The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The Independent's liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the Independent be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

HELP WANTED

There's a good chance we're right in your neighborhood. We're looking for **Direct Care Assistants** to support persons we serve in their homes in the Belleville & Romulus communities. \$8.25 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (734) 699-3808 or (734) 699-6543
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Feel great about the work that you do helping people we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training provided. \$8.40 total per hr. plus good benefits.
Call (734) 753-4804 New Boston
Email resume to: recruiter@questserv.org

HELP WANTED

Caring, mature, enthusiastic people needed to work with women who have disabilities. Part time call-ins could lead to full time. Will train the right person. \$7.90/hr. to start with paid for training. Please call (734) 461-2204

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

EXPERIENCED Bartender Wanted. Van Buren Eagles. Apply in Person. 9961 Beck Rd. TFN

MANUFACTURE HOME PARK looking for assistant to Maintenance Dept. Must be able to repair homes and operate equipment. Swan Creek Mobile Homes, New Boston. Call Owen (734) 753-5333 12/19

Drivers CDL-A: Lots of Miles. Great Pay/Benefits & Bonuses. Home Weekly. No Slip Seat. No Touch. Newer Equipment. (855) 219-4838 12/26

CHILD CARE Provider needed at Daycare center. Call (734) 624-2515 after 5 p.m. 12/19

"No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar."
- Abraham Lincoln

HELP WANTED

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected calls for VBT Police.

Sunday, Dec. 8:

0856 – larceny, 51226 Sylvia Dr.
1014 – larceny, 75 Maple Dr.
1232 – assault & battery, 8940 Parkwood Dr.
1318 – property damage accident, Belleville / Ecorse
1440 – fraud, Meijer
1500 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
1544 – malicious destruction of property, 42844 Fairfield Dr.
1824 – fraud, Meijer
1936 – disorderly conduct, 11875 Quirk Rd.
2131 – disorderly conduct, 11875 Quirk Rd.
2145 – malicious destruction of property, 9588 Dalton Dr.
2209 – noise complaint, Jackson/Zachary
2326 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Denton Rd.

Monday, Dec. 9:

0034 – property damage accident, Atchinson
0909 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. Independence
0950 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / Capitol Dr.
1336 – larceny, Meijer
1523 – fraud, 8701 Belleville Rd.
1615 – fraud, 49211 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1646 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Riggs
2230 – warrant arrest, Meijer
2333 – agency assist, WB I-94/rest area
Tuesday, Dec. 10:
0059 – assault & battery, 8087 Jeremy Rd.
0855 – disturbance, 11511 Belleville
1057 – private property accident, Tim Horton's / Belleville Rd.
1334 – property damage accident, Mobil Gas / Ecorse
1427 – dumping complaint, NB Haggerty/Ecorse
1431 – private property accident, 45601 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1631 – assault & battery, 6468 E. Sadie Ln.
1805 – property damage accident, 11740 Belleville
2146 – disturbance, 2193 Rawsonville
2147 – breaking & entering, 41838 McBride Ave.

Wednesday, Dec. 11:

0020 – disturbance, 48940 Denton Rd.
0422 – shots fired, 42731 Tavistock Dr.
0854 – larceny, 9674 Andover Dr.
0927 – private property accident, 48721 Denton
1145 – private property accident, Westlake
1344 – trespassing, 41775 Ecorse Rd.
1648 – missing person, 9271 Parkwood Dr.
1650 – fraud, 49060 Denton Rd.
1704 – private property accident, 11650 Belleville
1815 – missing person, 9271 Parkwood Dr.

Thursday, Dec. 12:

0015 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
0624 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1024 – private property accident, 6758 Rogers Ave
1028 – suicide or attempt, 41500 N. Bellridge Dr.
1403 – private property accident, 41775 Ecorse Rd
1455 – harassment call, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.
1502 – property damage accident, I-275/Ecorse
1549 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Hannan
1722 – assist fire dept., EB I-94/Haggerty
1852 – assault & battery, 50365 Mott
1906 – missing person, 45104 Bemis Rd.
2028 – suicide or attempt, 45501 N. I-94 Service
2039 – assault & battery, 8295 Marlowe Ave.

Friday, Dec. 13:

0340 – agency assist, 87 Carmell
0916 – domestic violence, 46020 Lake Villa Dr.
0957 – private property accident, Charter One
0958 – larceny, 48811 Denton Rd.
1056 – property damage accident, 42835 Berkdale
1443 – mental, 7371 Sadie Ln.
1549 – domestic violence, 8879 Parkwood Dr.
1715 – fraud, Meijer
1741 – assault & battery, 12692 Hannan Rd.
1812 – larceny, 40608 Ross
1824 – fraud, 15700 Haggerty Rd.
1858 – fraud, 2095 Rawsonville, Kmart
1909 – malicious destruction of property, 42015 Arthur St.
2116 – private property accident, 10950 Belleville

Saturday, Dec. 14:

0013 – malicious destruction of property, 49096 Ashbury Dr.

0102 – suspicious person, 6065 Rawsonville
0104 – noise complaint, 831 E. Huron River Dr.
0105 – assault & battery, 41125 S. Woodbury Dr.
0156 – disturbance, 48721 Denton Rd.
0356 – noise complaint, 48721 Denton Rd.
0550 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Ln.
0758 – disturbance, 10958 Oak Ln.
0940 – fraud, 44705 Tyler Rd.
1001 – malicious destruction of property, 48470 Denton Rd.
1036 – malicious destruction of property, 9189 E. Walden Dr.
1054 – property damage accident, 10360 Belleville
1053 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Denton
1214 – property damage accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1619 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Meijer
1832 – noise complaint, 45873 S. Purple Sage Ct.
2137 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Haggerty
2320 – suspicious person, 10526 Belleville
2333 – assault & battery, 13323 Ormond Dr.

Also on this week's log are 164 traffic stops, 53 of which were on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 8:

0154 – suspicious vehicle, 149 N. Liberty St.
1403 – assist fire dept., 110 W. Wabash Ave.
1553 – suspicious person, 350 Edison Ave.
1945 – civil matter, 267 Victorian Ln.
1951 – assist citizen, 11875 Quirk
2024 – assist fire dept., 219 Victorian Ln.
2336 – civil matter, 267 Victorian Ln.

Monday, Dec. 9:

0609 – vehicle lockout, 237 Anaheim
1015 – prisoner transport, 34th District Court
1242 – assist fire dept., 10 Loza Ln.
1303 – assist fire dept., 629 Light Tower Dr.
1547 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
1939 – agency assist, 47115 Willis
2220 – assist fire dept., 275 W. Columbia Ave., Columbia Court
2308 – civil matter, 193 W. Columbia Ave.

Tuesday, Dec. 10:

0102 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.
1309 – welfare check, 469 W. Waterbury Ct.
1724 – suspicious situation, 214 N. Aberdeen Ct.
2053 – traffic complaint, BHS
2125 – domestic assault, 692 Breakwater Dr.

Wednesday, Dec. 11:

1108 – intrusion alarm, 45 S. Edgemont Ave.
1243 – narcotics crime, BHS
1259 – suspicious person, 409 W. Columbia Ave.
1507 – disorderly conduct, 47090 McBride, middle school
1508 – disorderly conduct, 47090 McBride, middle school

1508 – found property, 47090 McBride
1535 – assist fire dept., 103 Menlo Park Dr.
1559 – mental, 208 S. Aberdeen Ct.
1716 – welfare check, 87 Carmell St.
1818 – motorist assist, Andrew's Pharmacy
2123 – noise complaint, 180 Church St.
2311 – noise complaint, 4 Belle Villa Blvd.

Thursday, Dec. 12:

1021 – property damage accident, Marathon
1839 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.

Friday, Dec. 13:

0333 – assault & battery, 87 Carmell St.
1014 – private property accident, Charter One
1354 – serve warrant, 514 Main St.
1549 – harassment call, 87 Carmell St.
1633 – disturbance, Carmell/Belle Villa Blvd.
1657 – assist fire dept., 50 Loza Ln.
1701 – follow up, 178 N. Liberty St.
1717 – assist fire dept., 87 Carmell St.
1801 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 275 W. Columbia, Columbia Court
2135 – suspicious person, 265 Sumpter

Saturday, Dec. 14:

0106 – serve warrant, 105 Wexford Ave.
0108 – agency assist, 41126 S. Woodbury
0344 – suspicious situation, 200 Henry St.
0917 – vehicle lockout, 234 Belle Villa Blvd.
0927 – intrusion alarm, BHS
1022 – assist fire dept., 171 Belle Villa Blvd.
1401 – intrusion alarm, BHS
2047 – motorist assist, 6 Main St.

2220 – suspicious person, 216 Roland St.
Also on this week's log are 43 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Dec. 8:

0953 – missing person report, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1236 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.
1718 – mental health commitment, Nevada
1745 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1926 – subpoena service, Magnolia
2240 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Sumpter / Arkona

Monday, Dec. 9:

0752 – alarm, 7800 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1113 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.
1155 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1328 – fraud complaint, Rustic Lane
1417 – animal complaint, Bemis/Martinsville
1451 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bontekoe
1508 – assist other agency, Clay/Martinsville
1511 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1928 – subpoena service, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
1939 – civil dispute, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.

Tuesday, Dec. 10:

0831 – alarm, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1321 – civil dispute, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
2116 – property damage accident, 43000 bl. Wear
2210 – harassment complaint, 49000 bl. Willis
2250 – disorderly person, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
2336 – well-being check, Knollwood

Wednesday, Dec. 11:

0049 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0419 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Wear Rd.
0749 – citizen assist, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1013 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1536 – property damage accident, Texas
1539 – animal complaint, out of township
1706 – shots fired, Elwell/Judd
1741 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1742 – alarm, 49000 bl. Collyer Ct.
1853 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
2211 – noise complaint, 3rd

Thursday, Dec. 12:

0833 – animal complaint, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0905 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1305 – fire dept. assist, New Mexico
1432 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
2109 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Dunn
2356 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz / Sumpter

Friday, Dec. 13:

0959 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1507 – shots fired, 21000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1606 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1631 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
2027 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 14:

1209 – animal complaint, Edgewood
1307 – larceny, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1507 – property damage accident, 17000 bl. Lohr
1529 – fire dept. assist, Tulip
2157 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Carleton West
Also on this week's log are 15 follow-up investigations, 24 miscellaneous details, 59 patrol checks, and 13 traffic stops.

Murder/suicide

(continued from page 1)

Cause of death would be determined by the autopsy scheduled for Wednesday morning.

The husband, who may not have an arrest warrant signed until Thursday, was in custody at the VBT lockup under 24-hour supervision, Floro said.

Neighbors said detectives went door to door on Greenwood asking those who live nearby about the couple. One neighbor said two children, around 10 years of age, lived in the home, but were not seen Tuesday morning.

According to the VBT Property and Land Search website, the home at 6352 Greenwood Court is owned by Richard and Travisteene Jackson.

VBT Board meeting cut short by strong natural gas odor

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The last regular meeting of the year of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees Tuesday evening was cut short by a strong odor of natural gas in the board meeting room.

When board members started arriving for the 7 p.m. meeting, the strong gas smell was evident. Supervisor Linda Combs tried to call DTE, but said she couldn't get through, so she called VBT Dispatch, who sent a police officer and a fire crew.

While the fire fighters were testing the air, the township meeting started with the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence in memory of the late Ralph Nodwell.

Then, after conferring with Fire Battalion Chief David McNally, Police Lt. Charles Bazy ordered the room evacuated.

There were about ten members of the audience who joined board members out in the hallway while fire fighters used a generator and a big fan to air out the main meeting room.

There still was a reading of 30 in the main room and a fluctuating zero to 11 in the smaller meeting room across the hallway. Fire fighters said it was safe to meet for about a half hour and so the meeting reconvened in the smaller room at 7:22 p.m. and all the business was done in 16 minutes.

BUDWEISER BOTTLES - \$2, WINE AVAILABLE!

CHINA KING

45915 S. I-94 Service Dr., Belleville

Next to the Belleville Post Office

(734) 699-1550

DOUBLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$9.00

SINGLE COMBINATION PLATES - \$6.50 - \$7.00

10% OFF

**Any Entree (Includes Carry Out Orders)
or Buffet Purchase Per Person**

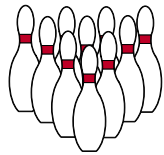
**DINE-IN OR CARRY OUT
Chinese & American Food**

**CHINA KING COUPON
COUPON EXPIRES 12-31-13**



HOURS
MON.-THURS. 11AM-10PM
FRI. 11AM - 11PM
SAT. 12PM-11PM
SUN. 12PM-10PM

Lodge Lanes



SHORT SEASON LEAGUE

Now Forming in January

For Info Visit www.LodgeLanes.com

WEDNESDAY MIXED

STARTING JAN. 8TH @ 7:00PM

4 PER TEAM - ANY MIXED COMBO

YOUTH BUMPER LEAGUE

AGES 4-8 10:00AM

SATURDAYS, STARTING JAN. 11TH

TUESDAY TRIO

ANY COMBINATION OF BOWLERS

STARTING JAN. 14 @ 7:00PM

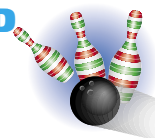
NEW YEAR'S EVE COSMIC FAMILY PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

12 NOON - 1:30PM AND

3:00PM - 4:30PM

\$39.95 PER LANE



**INCLUDES UNLIMITED BOWLING, FREE SHOES,
1 LARGE PEPPERONI PIZZA, 1 PITCHER OF POP &
PARTY FAVORS. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**

ADULT NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

8:00PM \$50 PER COUPLE

**INCLUDES 4 GAMES OF BOWLING, MYSTERY,
PARTY FAVORS, SNACKS, PIZZA, CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT
& PRIZE FUND. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**

BIRTHDAY PACKAGES AVAILABLE

**9 PIN NO TAP
DOUBLES AND SINGLES**

Fri. 10:00pm & Sat. 10:00pm

734-697-9178



46255 I-94 S. Service Dr. • Belleville

BHS student Marcus Steele to perform at Carnegie Hall in Feb.

Marcus Steele, 16, a junior at Belleville High School, has been selected for the 2014 High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall.

He will perform at Carnegie Hall in February 2014 with the Honors Band as a Saxophonist.

Participation in one of the three Honors Ensembles is limited to the highest rated high school performers from across North America and select schools internationally.

Marcus auditioned this fall for the Honors Performance Series and was accepted after a review by the Honors Selection Board.

Acceptance to the elite group is a direct result of the talent, dedication, and achievements demonstrated in his application and audition recording. Marcus will join other performers from the United States, Canada, and select international schools for a special performance at world-famous Carnegie Hall, a venue that marks the pinnacle of musical achievement.

According to Morgan Smith, program director, "Being selected to the Honors Performance Series is something each finalist

should be extremely proud of accomplishing. We process thousands of nominations annually, selecting only the most talented performers applying on an international level.

"Working with these conductors and performing at Carnegie Hall is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that these student musicians never forget."

The Honors Performance Series was created to showcase accomplished individual high school performers on an international level by allowing them to study under master conductors and perform in the celebrated venue, Carnegie Hall.

Finalists will come together for five days in February in New York City to have the opportunity to learn from Conductors Jeffrey Grogan, Craig Kirchhoff and Dr. Lynne Gackle, work with other Finalists, and get a taste of New York City.

Marcus is the son of Rachel Scully of Sumpter Township and has been playing the saxophone since fifth grade.

The Sunday, Feb. 9, performance is open to the public and specially invited representatives from collegiate music programs.



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